

## REDUCE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES IN HIGH HAZARD WORKPLACES

**Goal 3.1D<sup>1</sup>:** Reduce injuries and illnesses by 3 percent in five industries characterized by high hazard workplaces.

**Results:** DOL exceeded its goals for a three percent reduction for all five industries based on CY 1999 data, the latest information available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Program Description:** DOL selected these five industries because of the number of employees exposed and their injury and illness experience.

### Analysis of Results and Strategies:

**Shipyards:** The three-year average rate of injuries and illnesses is declining. During FY 1999, local emphasis programs that target inspections to shipyards were in place in Puerto Rico, on the east and west coasts, on Lake Erie, and on the Gulf of Mexico. DOL awarded targeted training grants and initiated partnership and outreach activities addressing shipyard safety and health.

High Hazard Industry	Lost Workday Rate* per 100 full-time workers (3 year average)			
	CY 93-95 Baseline	CY 96-98* *	CY 97-99* *	Percent Change
Shipyards	13.4	10.5	9.7	-28%
Food Processing	8.9	7.8	7.6	-15%
Nursing Homes	8.7	8.4	8.2	- 6%
Logging	7.2	5.2	5.3	-26%
Construction	5.2	4.3	4.2	-19%

\* Source: BLS Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses and Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (Logging). Lost workday rates are injury and illness combined for all industries except construction (injury only).  
 \*\* CY 2000 data will be available in December 2001.

**Food Processing:** Local emphasis programs and partnerships for the food processing industry were established around the country covering such diverse industries as fisheries and meat and poultry products production and meatpacking during FY 1999.

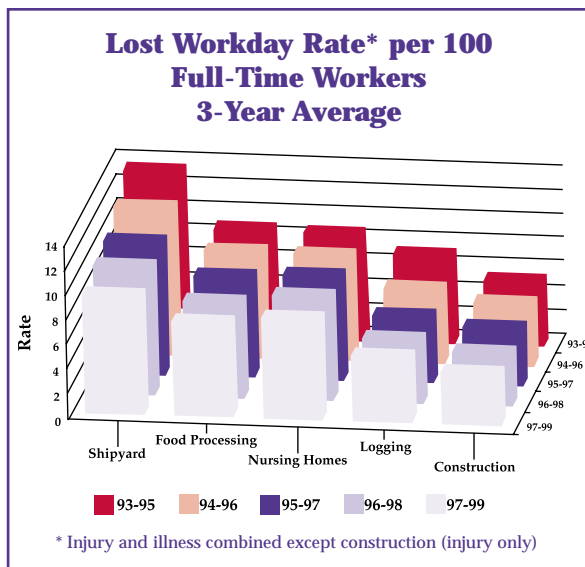
**Nursing Homes:** The FY 1999 goal was exceeded. However, this is the most challenging of the five high hazard industries. In 1999, the Nursing Home Compliance Initiative Policy and Procedures document was issued which included a sample safety and health program. Nursing homes were



Among other precautions, employees engaged in torquing operations should ensure good footing to prevent slips and falls, wear gloves to reduce vibration when using impact wrenches, wear eye protection from blowing particles, and wear appropriate hearing protection when noise levels exceed 90 dBA averaged over an 8-hour period. Courtesy of the Centex Construction Company.

Photo by: Michael Carpenter

<sup>1</sup> FY 1999 goal reported due to data availability. FY 2000 data available December 2001.



included in DOL's site-specific targeting program. Outreach and training materials were developed to support work with nursing homes and posted on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's

(OSHA) Home Page. Included were success stories on reducing hazards in nursing homes, pertinent OSHA regulations, and other information.

**Logging:** For each three year period, the rate has declined. Many local emphasis programs and partnerships for logging were implemented. DOL's website contains a Logging Technical Advisor and a Technical Links page. Training grants for logging completed their first year of operation with 3,800 people trained.

**Construction:** The three year averages for this goal have been steadily declining. More than 2,000 employers and more than 10,000 employees are expected to benefit from the cooperative programs, agreements, grants and partnerships that were continued or approved in FY 1999.

**Goal Assessment:** Based on the Department's achievements in reducing injuries and illnesses, the DOL goal is to reduce injuries and illnesses seven percent below baseline in FY 2001. New partnerships, local emphasis programs and outreach will be directed to the industries and hazards in the strategic plan goals, especially nursing homes. ■

Engineered fall protection system designed for versatility and easy use on construction sites. Courtesy of the Centex Construction Company.

Photo by: Michael Carpenter



## REDUCE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES IN WORKPLACES WHERE THE AGENCY INITIATES AN INTERVENTION

**Goal 3.1E: Reduce injuries and illnesses by 20 percent in at least 50,000 workplaces where the Agency initiates an intervention.**

**Results:** DOL exceeded its goal. 67,900 workplaces had at least a 20 percent reduction in Lost Workday Injury and Illness (LWDII) rates during the 2 years following an intervention by the Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

**Program Description:** Interventions include inspections, consultation visits, and high injury/illness rate notification letters sent to employers from the Department. (The Department sends high injury/illness rate notification letters to employers with the highest injury and illness

rates. These letters put employers on notice that they may receive an inspection, and encourage them to take action by requesting consultation services and improving workplace safety and health.) The impact of these interventions is being studied to help the Department assess its success in reducing workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

**Analysis of Results:** A researcher at Clark University examined injury and illness data for establishments that had one of the three specific types of interventions (inspections, consultations visits and high injury/illness rate notification letters) between FY 1995 and mid-year FY 1998. The study analyzed the prior- and post-intervention injury and illness rates for these interventions. Based on the results of the analysis, the researcher projected that lost workday injury and illness rates declined by at least 20 percent in an estimated 67,900 workplaces that

ConAgra Foods had a refrigerated foods division that was not totally pleased with the health and safety management at nine of its processing facilities. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) had a program to reduce injuries and illnesses in the food processing industry. Thus began a 5-year partnership among the ConAgra division, OSHA, and the United Food and Commercial Workers' Union to achieve a level of excellence in worker safety and health practices that would qualify all nine sites for OSHA's premier Star Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). OSHA conducted more than 15 culture change workshops for senior management, employees, and union representatives at participating sites, and five comprehensive onsite reviews to evaluate present safety and health programs and instill an understanding of the elements needed for a stellar program. The results? Five of the nine facilities have reduced injury incidence rates from 9 to 48 percent, and the three partners have established a trusting and cooperative relationship. Best of all, 10,000 employees enjoy a much safer workplace.

Courtesy of: ConAgra Foods





had one of the three types of interventions between FY 1995 and FY 2000.

**Strategies:** In FY 1999, DOL implemented a worksite-specific inspection Targeting Plan which focused on 2,200 hazardous worksites in manufacturing and selected hazardous industries. In FY 1999, this targeting program produced four times as many significant cases as all other inspections. (Significant cases are those inspections that reveal safety and health hazards so serious that OSHA proposes more than \$100,000 in penalties.) For FY 2000, DOL expanded the types of industries with worksites subject to inspection.

Compliance assistance also contributed to achieving the injury reduction goal. During FY 2000, participation increased in partnerships, including the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The VPP, which has grown to over 426 sites covering 274,574 employees, recognizes firms that have exemplary safety and health records and voluntarily implement programs that go beyond those required by regulation. In addition, 4,645 employers and 109,000 employees were involved in partnerships at the close of FY 2000. Forty-two new partnerships were added to the program in FY 2000, an 83 percent increase. Employers were also provided with two other kinds of compliance assistance, including free onsite consultation assistance in identifying hazards and establishing a safety and health program, and safety and health training. During FY 2000, 15,048 consultation activities were conducted.

**Goal Assessment:** The FY 2001 goal is to reduce injuries and illnesses by 20

percent in at least 75,000 workplaces. DOL will continue compliance assistance and enforcement strategies, including the consultation program, to pursue DOL's performance goals in a coordinated, complementary manner.

**Program Evaluation:** OSHA's Office of Statistics completed a FY 2000 audit of the validity and reliability of workplace injury and illness data: *OSHA Data Initiative Collection Quality Control: Analysis of Audits on 1998 Employer Injury and Illness Recordkeeping*. OSHA requires employers to record injuries and illnesses, and these records are collected for the OSHA Data Initiative. The audit found that employers' reports of injuries and illnesses provide reasonable and accurate data, and concluded that OSHA can use the information to meet its program data needs. OSHA plans to continue the audit program as a quality control mechanism for the OSHA Data Initiative and will use the information in outreach efforts to improve employer injury and illness recordkeeping. The report includes several recommendations for further developing the audit program, including maintaining a standard sampling universe so that trends in the universe estimates can be tracked and improving ways to inform employers about how they should keep occupational injury and illness records (See Appendix 3). ■